

REMARKS

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement between Groups 1 and IV is respectfully requested. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement between Groups I and IV because the restriction requirement does not meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 121 and search and examination of the entire application would not be a serious burden on the Examiner.

The Examiner has identified four sets of claims, claims 1-8 (Group I), claims 9-15 (Group II), claims 16-19 (Group III), and claims 20-24 (Group IV) in the restriction requirement. Applicants submit that the claims of Groups I and IV are not independent and distinct from each other as required by 35 U.S.C. § 121.

The Examiner states that the claims of Group I and IV are distinct from each other, because "...between [Group] I and IV, [Group] I does not require the use of a wire to couple the leadframe to the conductive layer..." Applicants assert this is incorrect. Claim 1 of Group I states in line 6, "a wire electrically coupling the leadframe to the conductive layer." Therefore, both Group I and Group IV include the feature of a wire to couple the leadframe to the conductive layer. For at least this reasons, the claims of Groups I and IV are not independent and distinct.

In addition, the search and examination of all claims would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. The Examiner will inherently search the subject matter included within the claims of Group I when he searches the claims of Group IV. Accordingly, examination of all the claims is not a serious search burden on the Examiner. Therefore, the Examiner must examine the entire application on the merits even if it includes claims to independent and distinct inventions. M.P.E.P. § 803.

If the restriction requirement is not withdrawn, Applicants elect to prosecute the invention of claims 1-8 (Group I). However, Applicants submit that the restriction requirement between Group I and IV is improper and if the Examiner agrees, Applicants elect to prosecute the claims 1-8 and 20-24 (Groups I and IV). Please contact the Applicants' practitioner below if there are any issues regarding this communication or the current Application.

If Applicant has overlooked any additional fees, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or debit Deposit Account 503079, Freescale Semiconductor, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

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